

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of our time.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Before I yield back the balance of my time, I just hope that the Iranian leaders realize that when they continue down this path, they ultimately not only endanger the entire Middle East and maybe areas beyond, and who knows maybe ultimately the United States, but they endanger their own security as well; and it would be far better for them to start thinking about complying with the U.N. resolutions and stopping their nuclear program before there are problems down the road.

This resolution, as my colleague, the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS), just said, does not give the President unilateral authority.

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, the resolution we are considering today directly confronts what may become a clear and present threat to American security.

For 18 years, the government of Iran has hidden information on its nuclear program from international inspectors. Iran is a signatory to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, a regime which is effective only as long as its signatories are fully committed to full and complete disclosure of any nuclear program for any purpose. The international community has already given Iran the benefit of the doubt. With its rich natural resources, the country does not even need the atomic energy it claims to be producing for peaceful purposes. Why in the world would a country soaked in oil require a nuclear fuel cycle and the enriched uranium that goes along with it? Mr. Speaker, it does not take a detective to smell a rat on this one.

This is very serious business. There is no greater nightmare for this generation of Americans than the idea of a 9/11-style attack involving weapons of mass destruction. Ongoing research into Libya's weapons program, which appears to be a model for compliance and disarmament among all rogue states, demonstrates that the shadowy network of nuclear proliferation is even deeper and more frightening than we had previously suspected. Putting our trust in Iran's undemocratic, fundamentalist leadership to voluntarily safeguard this technology of terror is not an option.

With this resolution, we demand that Iran honor its stated commitments and obligations. The Iranian regime must grant the IAEA inspectors full unrestricted access and cooperate fully with the investigation of its nuclear activities. And our efforts to secure cooperation must be in concert with our European allies and other responsible members of the international community. As we learned on March 11th of this year, no one in the civilized world is safe from terrorism.

And we must be diligent, earnest, and serious in our message. This means that, in the short term, the IAEA must report that Iran is in noncompliance with its obligations under the Nonproliferation Treaty; the European Union and other allies in the war on terror must be active partners in sanctioning the Iranian regime economically; and the President should act to enforce the appropriate provisions of the Iran and Libya Sanctions Act of 1996.

Mr. Speaker, American troops have already deposed a regime whose cooperation on

WMD disclosure was not sufficient. No one should doubt our resolve in keeping weapons of mass destruction out of the hands of terrorists. We cannot trust the ayatollahs in Tehran to responsibly handle technology that could be used against American civilians. If the Non-proliferation regime is broken, it must be fixed. Quickly.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, while all of us rightly focused on the continuing effort to secure and stabilize Iraq, none of us can close our eyes to the ominous and growing danger posed by the government of Iran.

That is why I strongly support this important bipartisan resolution brought to the floor today by the chairman and ranking democrat on the Committee on International Relations (Mr. HYDE and Mr. LANTOS).

This resolution condemns in the strongest possible terms Iran's continuing deceptions and falsehoods to the International Atomic Energy Agency and the international community about its nuclear programs and activities.

For example, Iran failed to properly disclose the existence of a fuel enrichment plant and facility at Natanz, until both were revealed by an opposition group.

It confirmed that it had conducted research on uranium conversion processes, but only after it denied doing so.

According to a February report by the director general of the IAEA, Iran continues to engage in deception regarding its nuclear activities.

This resolution also calls on the United States, as well as all state parties to the treaty on Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, to use (and I quote) "All appropriate means to deter, dissuade, and prevent Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons."

The fact is, our national security demands that we do everything in our power to prevent Iran from developing and acquiring nuclear weapons.

The Iranian government is hostile to the interests of the United States. It is a state sponsor of terrorism.

It is a committed enemy of the state of Israel, our staunch ally and the lone democracy in this most volatile region.

It is vital that we speak with one voice on this issue of utmost gravity. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, Iran has repeatedly denied that it is trying to develop nuclear weapons. But it is increasingly difficult to conceive of any other plausible explanation for its efforts to enrich uranium and develop other nuclear-related capabilities. And even harder to understand why else it would try so hard to conceal these activities from the international community. As reported by the International Atomic Energy Agency, Iran has failed time and time again to comply with its obligations under the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. It has also failed to provide a full disclosure of all nuclear activities to the IAEA, and engaged in a pattern of lies and deception.

Since Iran's covert nuclear program was exposed to the world in February 2003, IAEA inspectors have found traces of highly enriched uranium, discovered that Iran had reprocessed a small amount of plutonium, and forced Iranian officials to reveal critical information about advanced centrifuge designs and components. These and other revelations about

Iran's nuclear program are even more troubling in light of Iran's extensive ties to international terrorist organizations.

According to the just-released State Department report on Patterns of Global Terrorism, "Iran remained the most active state sponsor of terrorism in 2003." The report notes that some members of al-Qaeda "have found virtual safehaven" in Iran, while Iranian authorities continue to provide Hezbollah, Hamas, Palestinian Islamic Jihad and other radical terrorist organizations with "funding, safehaven, training, and weapons."

Iran also continues an aggressive program to develop ballistic missiles. According to the Congressional Research Service, Iran has hundreds of short-range missiles, and possibly 10–20 long-range Shahab–3 missiles, which may be capable of carrying a nuclear warhead.

Mr. Speaker, Iran has absolutely no need for a nuclear deterrent. Over the last two and a half years, we have taken care of Iran's only two enemies—the Taliban and Saddam Hussein.

Nor does Iran—with 7 percent of the world's proven oil reserves and the second largest natural gas reserves on the planet—have a demonstrated need for civilian nuclear power.

We must continue to make it clear—to our European allies, who have generally favored a more conciliatory approach to Iran—and to the unelected rulers in Tehran, who continue to lead the Iranian people down this perilous path—that we will not sit idly by and allow Iran to become a nuclear weapons state.

This resolution is an important part of that effort, and I urge its adoption.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COLE). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 398.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will recognize Members for Special Order speeches without prejudice to the possible resumption of legislative business.

#### SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.